

M I N U T E S

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI March 19, 2020

INTRODUCTORY

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri, met for a special meeting in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on March 19, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Akers called the meeting to order with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and Jamie Rouch gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lisa Westfall called roll: Mayor Edd Akers presiding, Kevin McConnell, Brian Clonts, Bob Simmons, Bill Skains, Larry Milton and Rick Castillon.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IT Director Chad Forster made an announcement regarding the audio livestreaming of the meeting. He explained if the load of individuals listening live is significant, there's a chance the livestream could go down. He hopes this doesn't happen and noted the IT Department will do its best to keep it online and available.

Mayor Akers read a statement regarding speaker decorum and stated in order to give everyone a chance to speak tonight I would like to ask that if you're speaking on an item, that you keep your comments succinct, to the point and as short as possible. You will be allowed to only speak once on an item and please do not repeat what has already been said by another speaker. Once public discussion has ended on an item and the Board starts their discussion, no additional comments will be taken from the audience. Please remember to speak into the mic and state your name and address for the record. Please seek to follow our five minute guideline as you speak and then as a special for the Aldermen, if there's someone they want to call back for clarity, we have a five minute limit on that timeframe also.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Seitz, 1805 Miller Drive, Branson, Missouri, introduced himself as a candidate for State Representative in the 156th District and said he appreciates the difficult decisions put before City leadership. During times of crisis, the fortitude of leaders is tested and he's confident any decisions the Board makes going forward will be a result of both research and reasoned, logical analysis. He encouraged the Board to take into consideration both individual liberty and the common good when making these difficult decisions. He feels limits on individual liberty should only be put in place as an emergency last resort and he knows the Board will consider this when making decisions. He expressed those around the country who visit Branson should know Branson will be back, ready and excited to welcome them back to the tourist town with open arms. Mr. Seitz explained Branson must deal with the current situation while still planning for a bright future.

Stanley Merriman, 1017 Creekwood Road, Merriam Woods, Missouri, said he's here to speak about the hotel he manages and provide the Board with information concerning how COVID-19 has affected his business. He reported yesterday morning he had to make the toughest decision he's had to make as a general manager in the hospitality industry. He explained his decision is by no means a knee jerk reaction, but based upon hours of research, financial data analysis, CDC recommendations concerning social distancing and lots of prayer for wisdom and strength. He announced the Baymont by Wyndham Branson Theatre District will be voluntarily and temporarily closing beginning March 22nd after checkouts leave as to not displace any current guests. He reported the tentative plan is to reopen on April 17th, but since this is a dynamic situation, if the issue improves it will reopen earlier or if it worsens it will be closed longer. This was a very tough decision, but one he feels had to be made considering safety concerns of guests and employees and the financial strain due to business loss for March and April. With input from Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, employees and ownership, he made this heartbreaking decision two weeks ago when he was directed by ownership to formulate a COVID-19 response plan. He commented his plan has three stages, and unfortunately due to the escalation of circumstances and rapidly changing guidelines from the Federal Government, the plan is now in its third stage. Mr. Merriman believes his response plan's guidelines and recommendations went above and beyond any recommendations he's received. While he believes his hotel is one of the safest in Branson due to its extreme efforts, he couldn't look at himself the same in a mirror if a guest or employee were to contract the virus from his establishment and lose their life. He commented this slim possibility is more than he and ownership is willing to risk. As a member of the hospitality community in Branson, he's seen Branson bounce back from market collapse, floods, tornadoes and horrible accidents. His experience leads him to believe there will not be enough hotel rooms in Branson for this summer's season and Branson will be able to partially recuperate some of its current financial losses. Mr. Merriman believes everyone who can't travel now will want to travel once this is over and Branson will be here to fill the wants and needs. He hopes this information will assist City leaders in some way and he thanked the Board for its time.

Eric Hunter, 2916 Vineyards Parkway, Branson, Missouri, introduced himself as a server at the Belgian Waffle House who has lived in Branson for 26 years. He reported the restaurant has remained open, has had about the same numbers as last year and most guests have thanked the restaurant for being open. He knows it's a tricky situation for everybody involved and feels there's no right or wrong choice. He shared his opinion that if the City does a mandatory closure on a lot of these businesses, corporate businesses can survive because they have backing, but mom and pop places can't and they're what has made this town unique over the years. He expressed his concerns over closing them down for possibly three or four months as it could hurt a lot of them and they might never recoup. He explained the winter time is long and spring break just started, so if the City does a mandatory closure now it's not only going to affect the businesses, but the employees. He added, most of them live paycheck-to-paycheck and barely get through the winter just in time to get back to work. Many will be at risk of losing cars, homes and loans they have to pay on. This is a tough decision and he feels there's no right or wrong choice. He expressed his opinion of being in favor of keeping businesses open.

John D. King Jr., 728 Haugwood Ranch Road, Galena, Missouri, waived the opportunity to speak at this time.

Dr. Cassandra Ashley, 225 Gabby Lane, Walnut Shade, Missouri, waived the opportunity to speak at this time.

Dr. Craig Randall, 245 Cedar Meadows Lane, Branson, Missouri, waived the opportunity to speak at this time.

Dr. Jeni St. Onge, 574 State Highway 248, Branson, Missouri, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and introduced herself as owner and operator of Thrive Chiropractic in Branson. She's stated she's a chiropractor and functional medicine doctor and would like to echo Mr. Brian Seitz's comments regarding the City trusting local businesses to exhibit common sense and not force shutdowns. She fears

it's a vulnerable time of year for people to be out of work and a lot of unnecessary hardship would be created by forcing businesses to be shutdown. She believes people want to do their very best to comply with CDC regulations and feels they should be trusted that they will follow good practices. Dr. St. Onge commented she's speaking on behalf of not only her office, but a couple of other chiropractic offices in town and wants to say they're here as physicians to help with this however they can. As primary care Physicians, they deal with a lot of day-to-day things such as back and neck pain and as a functional medicine provider, she treats people for things such as healthy immune system support. She explained if doctor offices like hers are shut down, people will go to the emergency room for back pain and would flood the emergency room and resources needed to care for people who are sick. She added, this may overwhelm emergency rooms with these issues that can very much be dealt with in the office. She believes she speaks on behalf of many of the chiropractic and functional health and nutritional practices in town that they're here to help however they can. Her office is taking all kinds of procedures to make sure the office is sanitized above and beyond what it normally does and has thermometers to take temperatures, gloves and masks if needed and things like that to ensure they're doing their very best. She announced she's currently offering free 10-minute phone conversations about things people can do to boost their immune system naturally. She doesn't want anybody living in a constant state of fear and panic and feels all of this stress is just not good. Dr. St. Onge feels it's her part to offer what she can to help and she thanked the Board for listening. She added, on behalf of the chiropractic community we are here to help in any way we can.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Akers stated it's my responsibility as Mayor under state law to take care of the ordinances of our City and the state laws relating to our City are complied with. Under one of our ordinances, Branson Municipal Code 2-64, I am tasked with the responsibility of being the Presiding Officer of the Board and am required to preserve strict order and decorum at all meetings of the Board. The citizens of Branson elected us to make decisions on policy matters and to make those decisions by voting. We are obligated to vote unless a conflict of interest prevents us from doing so. The common law of the State of Missouri supports this. Although I cannot force any member of the Board to cast a vote, and no member can be required to cast a vote, I do have the ability to control the order and decorum of these meetings. As a result, I'm announcing under my authority to preserve order and decorum at these meetings, that any abstention by any member of the Board during this meeting can be recast as a no vote.

Mayor Akers asked if there were any citizens who had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked if any member of the Board had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Akers explained he would recuse himself from the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Mayor Akers left the meeting at 6:17 p.m. He disclosed his conflict of interest on Item Number 8 due to his son's involvement in the insurance business. Acting President Simmons presided over the meeting.

Acting President Simmons asked City Clerk Lisa Westfall to read the items on the Consent Agenda. City Clerk Lisa Westfall read the following Consent Agenda items by title.

Approval of Board of Aldermen Minutes:

- a) March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting
- b) March 17, 2020 Special Meeting

BILL NO. 5794
Ord. No. 2020-0038

Approving the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the City of Merriam Woods, Missouri Police Department pertaining to the donation of Taser X26 Equipment.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5794, an ordinance approving the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the City of Merriam Woods, Missouri Police Department pertaining to the donation of Taser X26 Equipment and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0038 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5796
Ord. No. 2020-0039

Amending Chapter 58 Section 65 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to the ordinance violation of harassment.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5796, an ordinance amending Chapter 58 Section 65 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to the ordinance violation of harassment was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0039 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5797
Ord. No. 2020-0040

Amending Chapter 86 Sections 621 thru 623 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to the naming of W 76 Country Blvd.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5797, an ordinance amending Chapter 86 Sections 621 thru 623 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to the naming of W 76 Country Blvd was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0040 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5798
Ord. No. 2020-0041

Approving a Reimbursement Agreement with Morris Hospitality, LLC. pertaining to the installation of a 24 Inch Sewer Main Improvement.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5798, an ordinance approving a Reimbursement Agreement with Morris Hospitality, LLC. pertaining to the installation of a 24 Inch Sewer Main Improvement and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0041 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5799
Ord. No. 2020-0042

Accepting the proposal of D.H. Pace Company, Inc. D/B/A Overhead Door Company of Springfield pertaining to overhead door maintenance services for the City of Branson Facilities.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5799, an ordinance accepting the proposal of D.H. Pace Company, Inc. D/B/A Overhead Door Company of Springfield pertaining to overhead door maintenance services for the City of Branson Facilities and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0042 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5800**Ord. No. 2020-0043****Approving the renewal of the contract with Kimberling City Tire Company, Inc. pertaining to tires, tubes and services.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5800, an ordinance approving the renewal of the contract with Kimberling City Tire Company, Inc. pertaining to tires, tubes and services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0043 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5801**Ord. No. 2020-0044****Approving the amendment to the 2020 Life and AD&D Insurance Premiums from Anthem Life Insurance Company and allowing Elected Officials to sign up for basic life insurance for the City of Branson.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5801, an ordinance approving the amendment to the 2020 Life and AD&D Insurance Premiums from Anthem Life Insurance Company and allowing Elected Officials to sign up for basic life insurance for the City of Branson and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0044 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5802**Ord. No. 2020-0045****Approving the First Amended Contract with Sentinel Emergency Solutions pertaining to the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5802, an ordinance approving the First Amended Contract with Sentinel Emergency Solutions pertaining to the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0045 was duly enacted.

Acting President Simmons opened the floor for a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Alderman Clonts moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Skains. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: Akers. Motion carried.

Mayor Akers returned to the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

Alderman Clonts made a motion to move Items 16 and 17 to the beginning of the Regular Agenda as a matter of public health, seconded by Alderman McConnell. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5806**Ord. No. 2020-0051****Amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to public gatherings.**

First Reading of Bill No. 5806, an ordinance amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to public gatherings was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented

Board of Aldermen

Special Meeting 3-19-20

Page 5 of 16

by Fire Chief Ted Martin and City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5806. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter.

Jim Cox, 155 Norwood Drive, Branson, Missouri, introduced himself as the owner of the Branson Collector Car Auction and mentioned the auction attracts 4,000 to 5,000 people per event. It is the first, oldest and largest event at the Branson Convention Center. Mr. Cox understands what the restrictions are and how the City came about them, but feels they might pose an issue for a lot of small businesses. He explained it costs him about a quarter of a million dollars to put the collector car auction on every six months which results in \$4 million to \$5 million of revenue in the City of Branson. He explained this isn't about money, but is about health and lives which he understands. However, in a small business like his, if the City doesn't make a mandate but makes a suggestion, there's no chance for loss of income insurance coming into play. If it's an absolute mandate, there's an opportunity for businesses to recover some of their losses. He feels it's a quandary for which he doesn't have the answer and is looking to the Board for the answer. He explained he gets paid twice a year in April and October and this may take away one of his two paychecks. He discussed there may be an opening in May with the Convention Center during Memorial Day weekend which might be a competitor. He inquired how he could find out what's being held, negotiated or sold at the Convention Center as this information is not available when looking at the calendar of events on the Convention Center's website. Discussion.

Brian Seitz, 1805 Miller Drive, Branson, Missouri, feels the word mandate is a little disturbing to him as a Constitutional Republican. He thinks the City needs to remember citizens' First Amendment Right to assemble together and explained the Constitution was written at a time of great trial in the United States, though different than the trial being faced right now. He believes people need to be cognizant of the word mandate and any forced separations. While he feels it's a good idea not to congregate in large groups and for people to take common sense precautions to fight against this devastating virus, forcing or mandating that a business closes goes against the Constitution and First Amendment. Mr. Seitz believes people should have the freedom as business owners to make that decision for themselves and be given that opportunity of liberty. Discussion.

Dusty Melton, 204 Mt. Branson Drive, Branson, Missouri, introduced herself as the General Manager at a business at the Branson Landing and inquired if mandates are passed, would people know the timeframe or would that be decided on later. Discussion.

Dr. Cassandra Ashley, 225 Gabby Lane, Walnut Shade, Missouri, introduced herself as the Infectious Diseases Doctor in Branson for the last eight years and would like to speak tonight mostly for the public health of the Branson area. She said she's a proud American who loves her freedom and this is certainly a time she never thought she'd be saying some of the things she's about to say. She explained currently there's a novel coronavirus that is much more contagious than influenza and the swine flu. At this point, it's looking to be about 40 times more deadly than the swine flu and most people are pretty scared of the swine flu. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have suggested people practice social distancing and to only have groups of 10 people or less. She explained the reason behind this is because that's what's going to stop this virus from killing more people. Dr. Ashley said the Chinese practiced social distancing to a much greater level than she thinks people ever will here, and as of yesterday they reported no more endemic cases in China. She clarified this means all the cases they've had were from people who flew back to China bringing the virus back with them, so the way to stop it is to stop people from spreading it. She shared some facts she found interesting from a study partially funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which found this virus can stay in the air in droplets for up to 3 hours at pretty high levels. She explained since this is a new virus people don't know how contagious that is, but means people could be spreading it around to each other right now if one person has it. Another problem with this virus is it stays at very high levels in people's throats and could be spread just by speaking and of course through sneezing and coughing. She feels when all people have to do is talk and get something infectious in the air it's pretty bad. Dr. Ashley reported people become infectious well before showing any symptoms and in most people it takes five days to even have a symptom. Additionally, at least 24 to 48 hours prior to symptoms people have very high levels of the virus in their throats. She explained it's much higher than with the flu and these are things that have been proven from a population of over 80,000 people. She feels the Chinese CDC

Director was nice enough to at least give the United States this information about this virus and people know from watching the news most places having a problem with the virus have limited gatherings. She reported the Las Vegas Strip has been closed and restaurants are doing curbside service which will at least create some revenue for people. She added, if none of that is scary enough, so far there's been about 230,000 cases of this virus worldwide as of noon today and a 4% death rate. She reported the swine flu's death rate is 0.1% and while she and many others thought this number was going to go down once more numbers came in, it hasn't. This is extremely troublesome and is why the President, Vice President, NIH and Dr. Fauci have appeared on national television begging people to stay home. She commented this is a national emergency and people have to work together as a team to fight this war against the virus and she feels if everyone doesn't work together as a country, things will not turn out well. Dr. Ashley reported Italy surpassed China's death toll and even though China has about 1.4 billion people, Italy didn't get a hold on it fast enough. She added, even though they're on complete lockdown, it was too late and people are continuing to die. There's a shortage of doctors as doctors are getting sick, a shortage of masks, and ventilators. People are dying because they can't get a ventilator and she doesn't want this to happen in Missouri, the United States or in Branson. She explained these are just the facts she's presenting to the Board and hopes people can use this information to get through this together as a country. It's not about Branson right now, but is about the world and the United States. She feels these numbers are frightening and addressed concerns regarding violating people's constitutional rights. She explained she would be willing to relinquish some of her freedoms temporarily to save people from dying in the community, country and world. If people don't work together to stop people from spreading it from one place to the next, more and more death will be seen. She mentioned it's also taxing the Healthcare System as there hasn't even been a documented case yet in Branson and everyone's already exhausted just planning for this. She reiterated she loves being an American and loves her freedom, but feels if it gets to a point where a security check is needed in order to get onto Branson Landing Boulevard, she would happily go through it. She responded to the Board's questions regarding the possibility of spreading the virus by using the microphone and she cautioned people not to touch the microphone and to use the hand sanitizer provided. Discussion.

Dr. Craig Randall, 245 Cedar Meadow Lane, Branson, Missouri, thanked Dr. Ashley for her comments and introduced himself as a physician of emergency medicine. He stated he's Co-Director of the Cox Branson Emergency Department, the current Chief of Staff for Cox Medical Center Branson and is here to show his full support for limiting gatherings. He explained being on the frontlines of the current impending medical disaster, he goes to bed each night thankful for having made it through one more day without this breaking out. He believes it's going to happen as it's a tidal wave that can't really be stopped, and the goal should be to try to slow it down. Things such as social distancing and limiting gatherings are all things people can do. Dr. Randall commented at this point it's not really so much a matter of whether or not people will get sick, but trying to time it properly and he expressed the importance of flattening the curve which is the goal right now. He feels it takes a lot to make emergency room doctors scared, but right now this is what scares them because mass casualties is probably the only thing that really scares emergency physicians. He added, not because of the quality of the trauma that's going to come in, but rather the quantity and limited resources. He recalled being deployed to Afghanistan twice while he served in the military and had seen multiple mass casualties. He mentioned despite having the best plans in the world set up for these mass casualties, they were overwhelmed every time. He explained the virus has the potential for mass casualties happening every day for weeks, if not months, if people don't get a hold of this. He has an extraordinary group of people who work with him in the emergency room and hospital who can handle any single event that comes, but this could be multiple events. He explained he has a limited number of people, resources and there's only so much they can do. There are very few beds designed to contain this virus in the hospital and after those beds are full, the hospital would have to start putting people in rooms not designed to contain this. Dr. Randall reported the hospital has never had problems with the number of ventilators, but it has very few ventilators comparatively with just 15 ventilators. He asked what he would do when the 16th patient comes in which he believes is going to happen. Dr. Randall explained contingency plans are in place with other hospitals such as Cox South and Mercy Springfield to help share this out, but there's a very limited number. If 200 sick patients are brought to him in the emergency room in three months he could handle it, but if 200 patients come in three days people are going to die which is just the way it is. He understands the financial aspect of this, but can only speak about how the actual medical side of this is going to happen. He feels this will be very ugly if people do not get hold of this and at a certain point it will not be him making the decisions, but the hospital's Ethics Committee deciding who lives, who

dies and who gets the last ventilator. He believes Branson will survive long-term and will do better in the long-term if it doesn't make the national news for being a place where the mortality rate is 10%. He added, unfortunately Branson is a tourist town and the type of tourists it attracts are high-risk patients who would be in the hospital more and would have higher mortality than the national average. He shared his biggest fear is for the hospital being overwhelmed in a very short amount of time. Dr. Randall expressed his appreciation for the Board's time and feels it has a very tough decision to make.

Dr. Shawn Usery, 5952 South Nettleton Avenue, Springfield, Missouri, introduced himself as the Chief Medical Officer for Cox Medical Center Branson. Upon listening to the discussion and questions this evening, he thinks there's an underlying current of is this really a big deal, how much is hyperbole and how much of this is a 24-hour news cycle. He said he can tell everyone for the last six weeks he's basically spent his entire waking day working with incident command, watching this disease start in China, go to Europe, hit the coast and he sees it marching closer and closer. Things that can be done are closing large public gatherings, good hand hygiene, people coughing into their elbows and those types of things to help curtail the disease more. He commented what's been said is true, the wave is coming, the tsunami is coming, the water is receding right now and he urged people to take this time to prepare for when the wave crashes and try to mitigate how devastating the crash will be. He addressed questions pertaining to civil liberties and said he considers himself a constitutional republican, probably more libertarian, and believes people's rights should be as extensive as possible, so long as they don't infringe upon the rights of others. If people's right to go to a bar, gathering or tournament infringes on his right to live, he thinks is unfair. Initial data that came out was that the mortality rates of people 60 years old and older are in the double-digits, people 80 years old and older are in the higher double digits, while the younger people are spared. He stated more recent evidence shows that's not the case as children, especially under age five, are especially susceptible to this. In addition, people are starting to see evidence that people 20 to 40 years old, the healthy people everyone thought was going to get everyone through this, are being seen on ventilators across the United States. This is a big deal and the Board has the power to help slow this down. Dr. Usery added, because if we don't, it will outstrip our resources.

Dr. John Peterson, introduced himself as being retired from the Air Force and having moved to Branson because of the community's patriotism, faith and shared values. He mentioned graduating from the Air Force's Flight Surgeon School, going to John Hopkins for his Preventive Medicine Residency and Master's Degree in Public Health, so he's familiar with this. According to his calculations and looking at online data, there's about 1,557 people on his closest data over the age of 60 here. Given the mortality rate from Italy, he agrees it's 15% when extrapolated, not 5%. He explained this means 234 lives are sacrificed for Branson for one person infected. Further, if the mean effective rate is 5.1 days, it goes out to 11.25 days, so one person in 5 days affects 2.5 people. When extrapolated, that goes quickly to 39 people in 20 days, 9,000 people in 50 days and 60,000 people in 9,560 days. Dr. Peterson explained that's if one person comes to Branson and interacts with somebody and it infects them. He added, that is what's being seen in Italy as it's a serious disease and Italian doctors have warned Italy did business as usual and honored people's rights to gather. He stated he's seen in this country that's not happening and he expressed his disappointment for people making choices to gather more than 10 people for recreational purposes. He understands economics is important to people, but not if they're dead. He said he appreciates the Board's time and hopes it will do the right thing and curtail this.

Clay Cooper, 101 Rose Oneill Drive, Branson, Missouri, stated he doesn't want to lose money as much as anyone else in the room, but thinks it's way above money at this point. He believes most people have lost so much already that they don't know how they're going to survive. He announced Sunday was his last show which he didn't know at the time. He recalled at the time the recommended gathering was 250 people or less and he still contemplated whether or not to do the show. He mentioned calling a meeting with the leaders of *The Haygoods* and *#1 Hits of the 60's* shows which perform in his theatre, to discuss how to proceed, whether or not to close down and what they were going to do. He explained everyone walked into the conference room backstage at his theatre and the President of the United States was on TV, making the announcement that conditions had become much more serious and for people to limit gatherings to 10 or less. Mr. Cooper said by the time the news conference was finished, he told everyone there was nothing more to discuss because that's the answer and discussed how to proceed with shutting the theatre's doors. Mr. Cooper said he's surprised the City is even having this discussion and knows

everyone is scared about how they're going to survive. He said he's sure everyone has called their banks, talked about lines of credit and called vendors about deferring payments for a while. He expressed concerns over the suggested 25% occupancy as his theater's capacity is 1,200 people which would put it at an occupancy of 300 people. He explained that's 300 people who would still go to the bathrooms, concession stand and lobby together and is 290 more people than the country's Administration is asking people to do. He mentioned having friends in the entertainment industry from all over the country and state who are questioning what Branson is thinking right now. He commented everywhere people look they see Branson is open for business, but feels that shouldn't be bragged about right now. Mr. Cooper said he'd love to be doing a show tonight, trying to make a living and support his people, but when the President spoke they made a decision. He explained he has 100 employees he personally employs that he laid off and *The Haygoods*, *#1 Hits of the 60's* and *Hot Rods & High Heels* shows average 25 to 30 employees, so about 190 employees were affected. Counting their spouses and kids it's terrible and he feels for everybody, but believes this is so much more than the almighty dollar right now. He said he thinks the right thing to do is what the Administration has asked people to do which is to shut down for a while and then pray everyone can recover from this in the near future. He clarified the point he was trying to make was that if occupancy is reduced to 25%, theaters can't survive on 10 people or 300 people, so they might as well be closed. Discussion.

Jim Cox, 155 Norwood Drive, Branson, Missouri, feels he was terribly misunderstood and clarified the comments he made earlier pertaining to semantics, not about whether or not he wants to stay open because he doesn't. He said he's up watching the news doctors at 4:00 a.m. because his gut is upside down and he's aware of the crisis and pandemic. He said it is semantics and asked if it's a suggestion, mandate or an ordinance that can be enforced. He asked the Board to do it correctly and he'll send notices in the morning that the Branson Collector Car Auction will not happen April 17th or 18th or maybe not this year. He clarified, its semantics and he was misunderstood. Discussion.

Burt Bordon, 153 Pinehurst Drive, Branson, Missouri, introduced himself as the President of Branson's Nantucket Resort. He asked for clarification when talking about scheduled events pertaining to his business. He asked if it has a tour wave scheduled, what rules would it be subject to; fire code or ten people in the building. Mr. Bordon said this is going to impact a lot of businesses in town and clarified a tour wave is when people are scheduled to come in for a presentation at a specific time. He added, in Branson and other tourism towns, people are scheduled for 120 minute sales presentations to take a look at vacation ownership, timeshare and private residence club products. These are typically scheduled for a certain time for people to come in, go through the presentation and receive their gifts. Discussion.

Jeff Seifried, 4100 N. Gretna Road, Branson, Missouri, President and CEO of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and CVB, feels this is the worst case scenario Branson has ever seen and there's no way to sugarcoat what's being discussed tonight. A week ago today, Branson was sitting pretty good which started to rapidly deteriorate in the marketplace as the country started to go on lockdowns and implementing shelter-in-place orders. He reported travel over time has evaporated in a matter of days and while there are still people in town and business, what he's seen happen is the business community has stepped up in a way he didn't think was possible. They've made some of the hardest decisions they've had to make, not because of a government mandate, but because they thought it was the right decision. They've closed their doors, postponed openings and spring break in Branson, which is the time for making money, but it's not about the dollar. It's about feeding families and people and the business community has stepped up in ways he didn't think were possible to take care of their employees. Mr. Seifried expressed his support for the Taney County Health Department's recommendation and this particular bill. He feels this is not popular whatsoever, but has to do its part as Branson and he believes visitors and communities on lockdown are watching to see if Branson takes the high road or not. He mentioned the Federal Government has said two things at the moment pertaining to shutdowns, one being 15 days and the CDC said eight weeks. He commented it's somewhere in the middle there because people want the flexibility. Mr. Seifried said he knows the Board has the flexibility to take action if the Governor releases an emergency bill. He feels the Board is in the most incredible position ever faced in Branson, but the time to act is now and he thinks the bill is appropriate to enact now in the business community. He thanked the City of Branson, Fire Chief Ted Martin, City Staff and the Taney County Health Department for making tough calls. He stated the Health Department has leaned on the business community and leaders in the community to make the right

decisions which is being seen played out. Consequently, the visitation has gone to nothing and he expressed appreciation for the Board's consideration on this. Mr. Seifried said he doesn't envy the Board's position, but wants it to know the Branson Chamber supports the affirmative vote for this particular bill tonight.

Kelly Trimble, 114 South Drive, Branson, Missouri, commented most of the Board knows him since he's lived in this community probably longer than anyone on the Board and is about the only native of the community left in the room. He explained the community is something pretty special to him and feels this is an important issue with different aspects everyone needs to consider. He said he wasn't planning to speak this evening, but came to observe and explained he'd like to speak on the topic brought up by Mr. Seitz about the constitutionality of this. He explained many people have said this is completely new and couldn't be foreseen. He disagrees with this and mentioned taking a defense and strategic studies class in Springfield in 1988 in which the possibility of a pandemic was discussed. He said the view of a pandemic was being some sort of a biological weapon; one political entity in the world acting against another. The concern was that in using a biological weapon, it would get out of control and turn into pandemic, so the idea of there being a pandemic has been around. The country has actually experienced pandemics such as the 1918 flu pandemic, 2002 SARS pandemic and H1N1 flu pandemic. Mr. Trimble commented there's a whole list on the internet, so this has been foreseeable. He commented everyone's been watching China for three to four months now and people are saying we need to act. He feels he's been kind of an alarmist by saying the United States is tracking with Italy because it hasn't acted. He added, it's coming down to the point that it's getting to be imperative that society act and to try to shut down the transmissivity of this virus. There's various reasons for flattening the curve and he was listening to Dr. Peterson talk about some of the statistics on the incubation period. He mentioned having a background partially in statistics and he'd taken a virology class in early January. Along with the class and speaking to other people, he's learned more about virology than he ever thought he would. He feels people can talk about transmissibility and various things, but it's pretty complicated. He mentioned speaking to Dr. Peterson this afternoon about how he went to an auction last Saturday that had been postponed because of the weather. He explained he went back to the auction just to see if anyone would show up and had asked the auctioneer if he was concerned about the virus. He shared the auctioneer wasn't since he didn't believe in the virus. Mr. Trimble said people have a basic human responsibility that if they know they're going to do something that is going to lead to other deaths, not to do it. He feels as a community, people know what they're doing is going to lead to the deaths of other people in other communities. He explained Branson is in a position where people are going to be doing what's called skipping the chain. Rather than transmitting from one person to the next, someone will come to Branson from Arkansas with the disease, infect a building or people. Someone will come here from Kansas and take it back with them and he believes Branson has the responsibility of not being a danger to the rest of the Midwest.

Jason Hughes, 740 Caudill Way, Branson, Missouri, introduced himself as one of the owners of the Hughes Brothers Theatre and reported his theatre has been very similar to Clay Cooper's Theatre and others in town. He stated this has obviously been a very difficult time of trying to decide what to do and reported his theatre is closed. Mr. Hughes mentioned talking to a lot of other theaters and people in town and felt it was kind of unanimous that theatres would just stay open as long as they possibly could. He reported for his theater, as long as possible was Tuesday night. He thinks part of the difficulty with a lot of the larger gatherings is if they're still open, it might be that they just simply don't understand the severity of the consequences of staying open or for insurance reasons. He explained his theatre's insurance company informed him that if there's a mandate, they possibly could collect insurance, but didn't guarantee coverage. He added, this is why the theatre stayed open as long as it did, otherwise it probably would have closed a few days sooner. Mr. Hughes said he agrees with the ordinance at this point to limit meetings and inquired about business that could be conducted at the theater while it's closed to the public. He stated there's still a lot of business that can be done without having a large staff on hand and he wants to make sure that it's clear it doesn't have to be closed to business 100%. Mr. Hughes provided examples of having sales people at the theatre to answer questions from people who are in town, wondering if the theatre is open or closed. He thinks there still needs to be an allowance for some staff to be on hand to be able to service people who have questions. Discussion.

Dr. Eric Snyder, 241 Ridgecrest Drive, Branson, Missouri, stated he's the Director of the Emergency Department in Branson along with Doctor Randall. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and for listening to everyone and said he can't imagine the sacrifices that everyone has made voluntarily. It's really broken his heart to watch the response the community has made already and he thanked the Board for considering this. Dr. Snyder stated he's representing the Emergency Department and mentioned graduating medical school in 2002 where he trained and prepared for disasters. He reported there are six military physicians who practice with him that have worked and ran the Baghdad emergency room during war times, so there's an immense background in his group. He reiterated Dr. Randall's comments that there's not a lot that will make them afraid like the lack of resources to be able to take care of someone when they really need it. He recalled in high school, someone had asked him if he wanted a penny that would double each day or \$1 million. He explained he of course wanted \$1 million, but that was the wrong answer. As Dr. Peterson pointed out, this is exponentially more than that because people may be infectious for more than just one day. Taking that same principle and carrying it forward, there's immense potential in a community like Branson where people come from different areas, of people bringing the disease with them. Additionally, the age of the population puts Branson in particular susceptibility. Dr. Snyder mentioned looking at statistics this week that made him shake all over, one of which pertained to the hospital bed capacity of the United States compared to some other countries. He referenced the CDC's website that reported the number of beds per thousand people in Korea is 12, China is 4.7, Italy is 3.1 and the United States is 2.7. He commented, people have seen what can occur in these locations, so if people can take that penny that doubles every day and slow it down, it's going to be critical in the ability to care for people, especially those in critical conditions. It's estimated there are about 54,000 to 60,000 critical care beds in the United States which could be doubled if hospitals use post-surgical beds, pediatric units and things like that. This is assuming staff is well and not sick, because if they are sick that number may be significantly reduced. Dr. Snyder mentioned hearing today about a physician who cared for some of the nursing home patients in Washington, and was just placed on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). He reported the physician is 43 years old and this is a last ditch effort to try to save him. Dr. Snyder commented he's a 44 year-old emergency room physician. He explained ECMO is when a machine is breathing for a person and there's very few of these machines in the United States, so they would save very few people. He'd like to reinstate the degree of the severity of the situation and he doesn't envy the Board's position. He added, his heart goes out to anyone who has to make this decision. He encounters people on a daily basis who come into the Emergency Department, facing unexpected illness and the decision of potential financial ruin or difficulties if they take care of their health. He reported people almost always decide to go ahead and come in to the hospital if they need to, make the sacrifice for themselves and for their loved ones and do what is the best thing for their health. He said he's had some people make the decision not to do that and those people usually end up in far worse financial ruin in the end. He applauded the community of Branson and the business community as he's overwhelmed by the sacrifices the country and businesses have made. He feels it's one thing for a person to make the decision for their own family member or themselves, but to take financial sacrifices for others is very admirable. Dr. Snyder expressed his appreciation for everything being done to try to help the community.

Tom Wilcox, 559 Amber Avenue Hollister, Missouri, introduced himself as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Branson. He feels this is tough, but the worst-case constitutional scenario is taking away freedom of assembly and interfering with the free expression of religion all at once. He commented this is not an issue for the First Presbyterian Church, because on Tuesday its Board chose to close the campus to outside groups and gatherings of 10 or more people until the crisis has passed. The church will remain open and is active or more active than ever as it will have large virtual gatherings. He explained his church has the benefit and privilege of being able to gather people virtually which many businesses can't do. He sees how tough this is and wants people to know his church family is praying for the Board, all of its neighbors and partners in the community. His church is committed to being part of a network of care, providing relief and recovery for those negatively impacted by all of the different consequences of the virus. Not only those whose health is impacted, but those whose income, business and ability to function is impacted. He explained his church is looking forward to partnering with City government, medical providers, non-profits, other houses of worship, businesses and theaters in the area to help neighbors make it through this crisis.

John King, 728 Haugwood Ranch Road, Galena, Missouri, said he works at the Fairfield Inn in Branson, which is a Marriott property. He reported the hotel has been following the guidelines it has received as well as those of the CDC. Mr. King stated the hotel's breakfast room is pretty big and reported having moved every single table and chair to the back of the room, leaving just grab-and-go items on its breakfast bar. He explained there's pretty much no gathering since people are taking their food back to their rooms. He reported the hotel has done everything as far as cleaning and sanitizing every surface several times a day to try to ensure guests have a safe and healthy stay. Whatever decision the Board makes today, he asked it to remember two things: the workers who have obligations to be able to pay their bills and if his business is closed down it will hurt.

David Crowdus, introduced himself as the owner of Godfather's Pizza here in town and said he's been waiting for some guidelines, so he's looking forward to this. He mentioned his restaurant has buffet, dine-in and carryout and needs guidelines. He reported his restaurant seats a couple hundred people and is allowed to seat 50 people. It has been separating customers and requiring everyone to wear poly gloves when they serve themselves. Mr. Crowdus commented his restaurant does a lot of carry-out as well and he inquired if customers are allowed to come into the restaurant to pick up their carryout orders. The restaurant also has a drive-up window which is utilized and he asked if customers would be allowed to come in, place an order and dine in the restaurant. He inquired about the requirements for a restaurant. Discussion.

Gregory Harris, 181 Windy Ridge Drive, Hollister, Missouri, asked for clarification with regards to ten people versus 25% occupancy. Discussion.

Margie McNeal, mentioned residing in an RV at Treasure Lake and stated there are a couple of things that came to her attention today and asked if after the Board makes its decision there would be a building of the community. She explained after having been to some of the local grocery stores and seeing all kinds of empty shelves, she inquired what was going on aside from people panic buying and was informed of problems with trucks coming in and stores not getting their orders. She stated there's a chance there's going to be another problem with the supply of things. She explained these are opinions she hasn't checked out yet, but is just presenting them to the Board to check out. Ms. McNeal reported there's also been a problem as far as truckers are concerned and rumors that when they're going to deliver something, before anything gets into the store people are in the parking lots buying pallets of items. She reiterated her concern for the building part and said she loves this community as it has a lot going for it. She inquired what would be done if this is mandated, how Branson would rebuild and keep things going during this time. She expressed her interest in seeing a plan for after the Board makes its decision.

Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Alderman Clonts moved to read Bill No. 5806 for its final reading, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Final Reading of Bill No. 5806, an ordinance amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to public gatherings was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5806. Alderman Milton so moved, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO.
2020-R003**

Encouraging the Citizens of the City of Branson to implement the mitigation strategies laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute of Health.

A Resolution encouraging the Citizens of the City of Branson to implement the mitigation strategies laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute of Health was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was provided by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion adopting the resolution. Alderman Simmons moved to adopt, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Mayor Akers called for a vote on the resolution. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Resolution No. 2020-R003 was adopted.

The meeting recessed at 8:04 p.m. and reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

BILL NO. 5782

POSTPONED

Approving the Annexation of the property located at 3855 Fall Creek Road, Branson, Missouri.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5782, an ordinance approving the Annexation of the property located at 3855 Fall Creek Road, Branson, Missouri, was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. She stated this bill was postponed on its Final Reading during the February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting. It is in need of a motion, second and a vote. A staff report was provided by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Alderman Castillon moved to postpone Bill No. 5782 to a date not to exceed May 12, 2020, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Mayor Akers called for a vote on the postponement. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5795

Ord. No. 2020-0047

Approving the Franchise Agreement with the Empire District Electric Company.

First Reading of Bill No. 5795, an ordinance approving the Franchise Agreement with the Empire District Electric Company and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. She stated this bill was postponed on its First Reading during the March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting. It has had a motion and second and is ready for an amendment. A staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Alderman Simmons moved to amend Bill No. 5795, Exhibit "1" The Empire District Electric Company Franchise Agreement, Section 7 from a period of twenty years to a period of fifteen years, seconded by Alderman McConnell. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Mayor Akers called for a vote on the amendment. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding Bill No. 5795 as amended. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Alderman Clonts moved to read Bill No. 5795 for its final reading due to recent CDC guidelines surrounding COVID-19, seconded by Alderman McConnell. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Final Reading of Bill No. 5795, an ordinance approving the Franchise Agreement with the Empire District Electric Company and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5795. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0047 was duly enacted.

SUBSTITUTE BILL NO. 5793
DEFEATED

Amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age.

First Reading of Substitute Bill No. 5793, an ordinance amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. She stated this bill was postponed on its First Reading during the March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting. It has had a motion and second for approval and is ready for a vote. A staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: none. Nays: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Motion failed.

BILL NO. 5803
Ord. No. 2020-0048

Approving a Planned Development Amendment to PD 2006-003, known as Sight and Sound Theaters, pertaining to uses, for the properties located at 1001 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, Branson, Missouri.

First Reading of Bill No. 5803, an ordinance approving a Planned Development Amendment to PD 2006-003, known as Sight and Sound Theaters, pertaining to uses, for the properties located at 1001 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, Branson, Missouri, was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5803. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Alderman Clonts moved to read Bill No. 5803 for its Final Reading due to recent CDC guidelines surrounding COVID-19, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Final Reading of Bill No. 5803, an ordinance approving a Planned Development Amendment to PD 2006-003, known as Sight and Sound Theaters, pertaining to uses, for the properties located at 1001 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, Branson, Missouri, was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5803. Alderman Castillon so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0048 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5804
Ord. No. 2020-0049

Authorizing the purchase of cellular services and products from Verizon Wireless.

First Reading of Bill No. 5804, an ordinance authorizing the purchase of cellular services and products from Verizon Wireless and authorizing the Mayor to execute the documents related thereto was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by IT Director Chad Forster. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5804. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Alderman Clonts moved to read Bill No. 5804 for its Final Reading due to recent CDC guidelines surrounding COVID-19, seconded by Alderman McConnell. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Final Reading of Bill No. 5804, an

ordinance authorizing the purchase of cellular services and products from Verizon Wireless and authorizing the Mayor to execute the documents related thereto was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5804. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0049 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5805

Ord. No. 2020-0050

Approving the Engagement Letter with Cochran Head Vick & Co., P.C. pertaining to auditing services.

First Reading of Bill No. 5805, an ordinance approving the Engagement Letter with Cochran Head Vick & Co., P.C. pertaining to auditing services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Finance Director Jamie Rouch. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5805. Alderman Castillon so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Alderman Clonts moved to read Bill No. 5805 for its Final Reading due to recent CDC guidelines surrounding COVID-19, seconded by Alderman McConnell. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Final Reading of Bill No. 5805, an ordinance approving the Engagement Letter with Cochran Head Vick & Co., P.C. pertaining to auditing services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5805. Alderman Castillon so moved, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0050 was duly enacted.

Cancelling of 2020 Board of Aldermen meetings.

Mayor Akers stated the next item is cancelling of the March 24th, April 14th and April 28th 2020 Regular Meetings. He asked for a motion cancelling these meetings. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

MAYOR/ALDERMEN/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

Alderman Clonts is pleased the City did its due diligence, passing the ordinance restricting the size of gatherings and he feels it's going to be a long fight with this disease process. He commented there are a lot of infirmed individuals and people who are shut-in now, and he urged everyone who's able to check in with these individuals to see that their needs are met. He feels this is everyone's duty as a society and community.

Alderman Skains mentioned speaking with City Administrator Stan Dobbins this afternoon regarding the closing of job centers in Branson and Springfield. He reported there's going to be a huge run on unemployment insurance after these actions taken by municipalities. He explained job center staff are set up to handle this, but everything will be done either on the phone or online because the job center will be closed for foot traffic. Alderman Skains explained the Springfield and Branson Centers that service the area will have people in doing work, but will be severely limited and he asked for people's understanding

during this time. Once people get laid off they're going to be filing for unemployment insurance and might get really frustrated with the door closed.

Alderman Milton thanked Branson businesses for taking COVID-19 as seriously as they have and for voluntarily making the choices of either closing or doing proper social distancing. He thinks this says a lot about the community trying to get this right now.

Alderman Castillon mentioned encouraging all candidates running for election to take their signs down until 30 days prior to the August 4th election. He stated he will hopefully start this weekend.

City Administrator Stan Dobbins reported during this evening's meeting City Staff has also been dealing with a flood. The Parks and Recreation, Police and Fire Departments evacuated the campground, and while the Board may not understand some of the things he does on his phone during meetings, he and Staff coordinated all of that during the meeting. He applauded Staff for their efforts and feels they do a great job. He said he'd like to echo Alderman Clonts' comments and reported the Parks and Recreation Department published a phone number for the elderly to call if assistance is needed picking up resources. He encouraged anyone who knows of a neighbor in need of someone to run an errand for them, to let the City know and someone will be there for them.

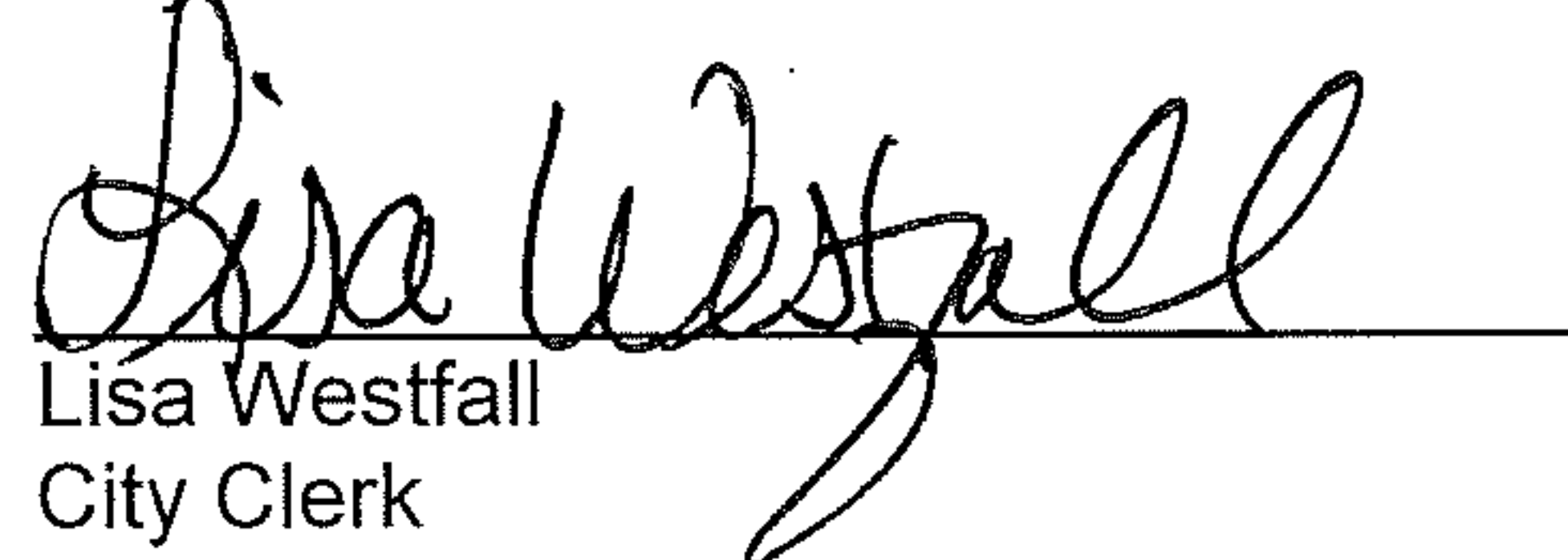
Mayor Akers stated this has obviously been a very difficult time trying to make good, common-sense decisions. He expressed his appreciation for the participation in the comments and feels there's been a lot of misinformation and a lot of people misunderstanding what the City can do and what it's supposed to do. He added, hopefully there are people sharing the truth and he mentioned the election has been postponed, the last date he heard was in June and mentioned he hadn't heard about the August 8th date at this point in time. He feels it's a good recommendation to take election signs down until 30 days prior to the election date. Mayor Akers expressed his appreciation for the citizens of Branson and mentioned a lot of people outside the City are interested in Branson. He mentioned spending the last two days answering emails and phone calls and some people were very concerned and polite while others were not so polite. He added, the City is trying to do the best it can to let people know information and whether they're nasty or nice he still responds and tells them he appreciates them making contact. He believes many of them just don't understand what the City's situation is, so at this point in time the City worked as fast as it could. Last Friday the Governor made his Proclamation; it's Thursday evening now and the City has something in place. He applauded the Aldermen's cooperation on this.

ADJOURN

Mayor Akers asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Castillon moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Milton. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.



E. Edd Akers
Mayor



Lisa Westfall
City Clerk